



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2005

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**ROBERTO BELTRAN SENTENCED FOR SMUGGLING ILLEGAL ALIENS THROUGH
THE BORDER PATROL'S SIERRA BLANCA CHECKPOINT WITHOUT INSPECTION**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in El Paso this morning, Roberto Beltran was sentenced to 33 months in federal prison for his role in a scheme to smuggle illegal aliens through the Border Patrol's Sierra Blanca checkpoint.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Frank Montalvo ordered that Beltran be placed under supervised release for a period of two years after completing his prison term.

On June 2, 2005, Roberto Beltran pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to smuggle aliens. In pleading guilty, Beltran admitted that he conspired together with Lehi Erives and former Border Patrol agents Aldo Manuel Erives, Robert Espino and Jesus Delgado to allow approximately 750 illegal aliens safe passage through the Sierra Blanca checkpoint over a one-year period beginning January 2004.

Beltran is the final defendant in this investigation to be sentenced. This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorneys Mark Greenberg and Greg McDonald prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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